

State's clean energy industries prosper

CTED recently completed a study on Washington's renewable, energy efficiency, and smart energy industries, according to Toni Usibelli, the agency's energy policy division manager. "We estimate that these companies employed more than 8,300 people in 2004 at average wages of just over \$58,000," said Usibelli. "And they generated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue."

Clean energy companies include those that:

- Install new wind turbines in Eastern Washington;
- Provide state-of-the-art energy improvements to our schools, hospitals, and office buildings; and
- Produce some of the world's most sophisticated electrical meters and transmission control technologies.

"Economic, security, environmental, and health effects of energy appear more and more often in the news as the world grows," said Tim Stearns, senior energy policy specialist with CTED.

"Where will energy come from in the future? Who will be the purveyors of that energy? Will Washington State be an innovator and seller or merely a buyer? The scramble is on, but it's clear that clean energy will have increased value as oil and natural gas prices remain high-and as the effects of fossil fuel driven climate change become more apparent."

New energy industries include energy efficiency technologies ranging from simple insulation to sophisticated, computerized energy controls for modern office complexes. They encompass "smart energy" which applies digital and "high tech" equipment and processes to improve all steps of the energy chain from production to end-use consumption. These industries also include rapidly expanding renewable technologies such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass.

"Worldwide, the renewables sub-industry is expected to grow 53 percent by 2020, said Stearns. "In 2004, Washington had 240 organizations working in at least one clean energy industry, including smart energy. While the clean energy industries are growing they are small in comparison to the established more centralized energy industry."

Clean energy industries in Washington State grew significantly in the past seven years, despite an economic recession, said Stearns. "Washington State is particularly suited to grow in the fuel cell, photovoltaic, smart energy, and energy efficiency industries."

The analysis follows a similar study in 1998, *The Next Generation of Energy: The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Industries in Washington State*.

(http://qa.cted.wa.gov/CTED/documents/ID_2007_Publications.pdf)

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